

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00382 131247Z

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ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2041

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 382

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID MR US

SUBJECT: OULD DADDAH-NIXON LETTER - INVITING USG ATTENDANCE
AT OMVS JUNE 1974 DONOR CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OULD DADDAH-NIXON
LETTER DATED APRIL 1, 1974, RECEIVED BY EMBASSY APRIL 12,
1974:

2. QUOTE

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN MY LETTER NO. 007 OF MARCH 3, 1973, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE
TO SEND YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENEGAL RIVER REGION (OMVS),
A REQUEST FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN THE FINANCING OF AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENEGAL RIVER BASIN.

IN THAT REQUEST, I OUTLINED THE CONTENTS OF THE OMVS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM.

IN JULY 1973, OUR ORGANIZATION SENT A MISSION TO WASHINGTON
WHICH INCLUDED THE PRESIDENT OF ITS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND ITS SECRETARY GENERAL. (THE MISSION) PRESENTED TO THE
ADMINISTRATOR OF USAID, THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
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AFRICAN AFFAIRS A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTIONS WHICH THE OMVS

INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE IN THE SENEGAL RIVER BASIN ON A MIDDLE AND LONG TERM BASIS.

MALI, MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL AS WELL AS THE OTHER SAHELIAN COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO SUFFER SEVERELY FROM THE DROUGHT WHICH HAS CONTINUED FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS. THIS IS WHY THESE COUNTRIES CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENEGAL RIVER TO BE A MATTER OF HIGHEST PRIORITY.

THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF MALI, SENEGAL AND MYSELF HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION YOUR RESPONSE OF MAY 7, 1973 IN ANSWER TO OUR REQUEST, AS WELL AS THE VALUABLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE UNITED STATES TO OUR COUNTRIES STRICKEN BY THE DROUGHT.

THE FINANCING OF THE MAJOR OMVS PROJECTS WILL BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE SOURCES OF FINANCE IN NOUAKCHOTT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF JUNE 1974. THE EXACT DATE OF THIS MEETING WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. WE HOPE THAT AT THIS MEETING, WHERE I WILL PRESIDE AT THE OPENING SESSION, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT MIGHT ASSIST US WILL MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO REALIZE THE PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE OMVS.

IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PARTICIPANTS AT THIS MEETING TO MAKE THEIR DECISIONS IN THIS REGARD, THE OMVS WILL TRANSMIT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 1974 A SYNTHESIS REPORT WHICH WILL SUMMARIZE THE STUDIES ALREADY COMPLETED AND WILL SPECIFY THE REQUIRED FINANCING.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO INVITE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS MEETING.

I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

MOKTAR OULD DADDAH
END QUOTE

3. ORIGINAL FRENCH TEXT BY FOLLOWING TEL. SIGNED ORIGINAL
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LETTER BEING POUCHED TO AF/N APRIL 15. MURPHY

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